

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 148
By McKee

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend McMinn County High School on many years of prosperity and service to the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should recognize and applaud those institutions of learning that, through their many years of laudable service, have become paragons of education and advancement; and

WHEREAS, McMinn County High School is one such shining example of scholasticism, having provided quality education for its students for over 100 years; and

WHEREAS, the oldest public high school in East Tennessee and the second oldest in the State of Tennessee, McMinn County High School was formed from Athens Baptist Female College, founded in 1890; and

WHEREAS, producing its first graduating class of seven students in 1903, McMinn County High School has weathered many changes and setbacks, only to emerge stronger and more outstanding than it was before; and

WHEREAS, forced to relocate twice due to space restraints caused by the ever-growing student population, the high school also endured two fires in the early 1950s; thanks to Keith Memorial Methodist Church, the National Guard Armory and Tennessee Wesleyan College, students were able to continue attending classes during the subsequent rebuilding processes; and

WHEREAS, a sizeable influx of new students in the mid-1950s caused McMinn County High School to undergo major expansion in 1960, and additional growth resulted in the process being repeated in 1967 and 1978; in 1980, the school moved into its current building, where the student population presently numbers approximately 1,500; and

WHEREAS, the exceptional principals of the school have provided much needed stability, leadership and guidance through some very difficult periods in American and Tennessee history; the much acclaimed principals of the school include: B.L. Hale, J. Will Foster, R.E. Childers, D.E. Weir, Ralph Nunley, Jim Parris, John Forgety, Oran Creasman, J.C. Burris and Johnny Grubb, who is the present principal; and

WHEREAS, a reflection of American history, McMinn County High School's 1946 yearbook was dedicated to students who had lost their lives in World War II; those students were given "Gold Stars," and their pictures appeared in the yearbook; and

WHEREAS, the school joined the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools in 1954, an affiliation which it has maintained over the years; and

WHEREAS, McMinn County High School has been an invaluable asset to the educational community of Tennessee for more than 100 years; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pay tribute to the school's monumental influence in this State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby salute the administration, faculty, staff, alumni, students and

parents of McMinn County High School for their many years of meritorious service to education and wish the school nothing but continued prosperity and academic excellence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.